

I was in radio from the time I was 14 till just a few years ago. Media consolidation took a once great medium and turned into little more than a jukebox. Almost no local programming outside of mornings, many small communities no longer have a local station, no local information.

Then comes Sinclair Broadcasting and their owner's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Shouldn't this fall under "political programming"? Shouldn't the Kerry campaign, or Moveon.org, or other pro-Kerry group get equal time.

Plus, Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to go back to the days of showing local service, fair and balanced programming. Thank you.